

April 14, 2006

**LOCKPORT MAN PLEADS GUILTY
TO GENESEE COUNTY ARSON BASED
ON ORLEANS COUNTY EXTORTION**

United States Attorney Terrance P. Flynn announces that earlier today Patrick Ackroyd, 55, of 95 North Transit Road, Lockport, pled guilty before Chief United States District Judge Richard J. Arcara to using fire to commit a federal felony in violation of Section 844(h) of Title 18 of the United States Code.

Assistant United States Attorney Anthony M. Bruce, who is handling the case, stated that Ackroyd, who was charged with extortion and arson in an indictment returned last December, admitted that he participated in the January 4, 2001, vandalism of the logging and tree service equipment of Keith Kent, d/b/a Jordan River Logging, 13299 West Lee Road, in Barre, New York, (Orleans County) and the theft of a pickup truck from the Jordan River Logging premises which was later burned in a rural area of Genesee County.

Ackroyd faces a mandatory ten (10) year prison sentence as a result of his plea.

Ackroyd's indictment and plea grew out of an ongoing investigation of criminal activity in western Orleans and eastern Niagara Counties. That investigation, which is continuing, has been carried out by a task force consisting of the Niagara County Sheriff's Office, under the direction of Sheriff Thomas Beilein; the Orleans County Sheriff's Office, under the direction of Sheriff Scott Hess; the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, under the direction of Resident Agent in Charge David R. DeJoe; and the Federal Bureau of Investigation, under the direction of Acting Special Agent in Charge Karen Spangenberg; with further assistance coming from the Niagara County District Attorney's Office and District Attorney Matthew J. Murphy III and the Orleans County District Attorney's Office and District Attorney Joseph V. Cardone.

No sentencing date has been set.